



Representative Louise M. Slaughter
Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 28th District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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□ Rep. Slaughter To Big Oil Executives: "Drill Or Get Off The Plot"

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, expressed disappointment after House Republicans last week failed to support H.R. 6251, the "Use It Or Lose It" bill, to compel the oil industry to begin drilling on the 68 million acres of land they already have access to.

For weeks Republicans and President Bush have called to increase domestic oil production yet House Republicans chose not to support the "Use It Or Lose It" bill that would do just that. During last Thursday's vote, Republicans blocked the House from garnering the two-thirds

majority needed to pass this legislation.

"Oil executives have been pulling the wool over the eyes of hardworking Americans for years," said Rep. Slaughter. **"They routinely demand more and more land for drilling, even though millions of acres are both already accessible and untapped. It is time for Democrats and Republicans to stand together to tell big oil executives to drill or get off the plot."**

BACKGROUND

Rep. Slaughter encourages domestic drilling but knows that we cannot drill our way to energy independence when we use a quarter of the world's oil, but sit atop less than two percent of the world's supply.

Rep. Slaughter is a cosponsor of H.R. 6251, the "Use It or Lose It" bill, which would compel the oil industry to start drilling on the 68 million acres which they are currently warehousing or be barred from obtaining any more federal drilling leases until they demonstrate that they are diligently developing those lands.

The 68 million acres of leased but inactive public land – equal to the size of Colorado – could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day, which could nearly double U.S. oil production and cut oil imports by one-third. It can come on line much faster than any newly leased lands, which would save only pennies per gallon, more than a decade down the road.

H.R. 6251 failed to pass in the House of Representatives under suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage. The final vote was 223-195 on June 26, 2008.

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